

Message Text

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43

ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 AGR-20 AID-20 IO-14 RSC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9846

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR,PFOR

SUBJECT: FOOD AID CONVENTION

REF: STATE 82251

1. AT LUNCHEON MEETING APRIL 25 EMBOFF DISCUSSED QUESTION OF FOOD AID CONVENTION (FAC) WITH H. K. RUSSELL, HEAD OF INTERNATIONAL AND EUROPEAN DEPARTMENT, MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT (ODM), JOHN NOBLE OF CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSION AND PAUL BENT SONDERGAARD, MINISTER-COUNSELLOR OF DANISH EMBASSY.

2. RUSSELL EMPHASIZED THAT THE US SHOULD NOT AT THIS POINT JUMP TO CONCLUSION ABOUT WHAT DECISION MAY BE TAKEN AT APRIL 30 EC COUNCIL MEETING (OR ALTERNATIVELY AT MAY 7 MEETING) REGARDING EC PARTICIPATION IN FAC. RUSSELL STATED THAT HMG HAS NOT TAKEN FINAL DECISION ON FAC AND BRITISH POSITION IS STILL FLEXIBLE. WHILE HE WOULD NOT DIVULGE DETAILS, RUSSELL INDICATED THAT IF CERTAIN CONDITIONS ARE MET BY OTHER EC PARTNERS (PRINCIPALLY FRENCH) UK MAY INDEED APPROVE EXTENSION FAC FOR ONE YEAR. THE UNDERSTANDING IN THIS CASE WOULD BE THAT THIS IS THE LAST YEAR FOR UK PARTICIPA-

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TION. ALTERNATIVELY, IF THESE UNSPECIFIED CONDITIONS

ARE NOT MET, THEN UK WILL OPPOSE EXTENSION FAC FOR
ANOTHER YEAR.

3. SONDERGAARD SAID THAT DENMARK LIKES FOOD AID EVEN
LESS THAN UK. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT DENMARK IS A
SMALL COUNTRY AND IF ALL OTHER MEMBERS APPROVE FAC
EXTENSION, DENMARK WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY FEEL OBLIGED TO
GO ALONG.

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